	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/820,429	MELA, JOHN M.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Marissa Thein	3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *December 27, 2004 and Esaminer Amendment of March 18, 2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *30-39*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *28 March 2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

       1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

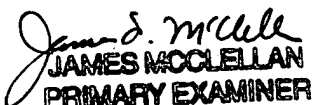   * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

JAMES MCCLELLAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Randy Gard on March 16, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

Claims 1-29 have been cancelled.

Claim 30 is amended.

In claim 30, page 16, line 1-2:

Lines 1-2 have been changed to read as follows:

--A computer-implemented method for eliminating bounceback behavior while

performing a product configuration, the method comprising:--

In claim 30, page 16, line 5:

Line 5 has been changed to read as follows:

--propagating within a computer-implemented system including--

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 30 recites a method for eliminating bounceback behavior while performing

a product configuration, the method comprising *inter alia* : reinstating the second

domain member to the set of available domain members by removing the tentative

elimination marking unless the input further includes specifying a domain member of a

variable other than the first variable and the second domain member of the first variable

is also eliminated by constraint propagation over the domain member of the variable

other than the first variable.

The most closely applicable prior art of record is U.S. Patent No. 5,844,554 to

Geller et al. Geller discloses a user product configuration program module which

includes user controls that allow user input of information for use in configuration

computations. The methods include creating and maintaining the logic for configuration

program module in the form of configuration parameters and linking created visual

controls with underlying structure presented by the parameters. However, Geller

neither anticipates or fairly and reasonable teaches a method comprising reinstating the

second domain member to the set of available domain members by removing the

tentative elimination marking unless the input further includes specifying a domain

member of a variable other than the first variable and the second domain member of the

first variable is also eliminated by constraint propagation over the domain member of

the variable other than the first variable.

Claim 37 recites a system for performing a product configuration, comprising,

inter alia: a means for bounceback detection operatively coupled to the configuration

engine and adapted to reinstate the second domain member to the set of available

domain members by removing the tentative elimination marking unless the input further

includes specifying a domain member of a variable other than the first variable and the

second domain member of the first variable is also eliminated by constraint propagation over the domain member of the variable other than the first variable. The system is allowable over the prior art of record for reasons consistent with those identified above with respect to claim 30.

Newly cited article "Configuration Tools Break New Ground --Commerce interfaces hook into back-end systems" discloses the addition of a new configurator functionality that gives buyers more inventory data and flexibility in mixing and matching features and pricing options. This article fails to anticipate or fairly and reasonable teach a method and system in reinstating the second domain member to the set of available domain members by removing the tentative elimination marking unless the input further includes specifying a domain member of a variable other than the first variable and the second domain member of the first variable is also eliminated by constraint propagation over the domain member of the variable other than the first variable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
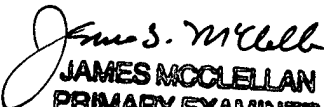
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa Thein whose telephone number is 703-305-5246. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on 703-308-5183. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mtot
March 18, 2005

JAMES MCCLELLAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
3/18/05